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THE TIME DOMAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF A TRAVELING-WAVE LINEAR ANTENNA WITH LINEAR AND NON-LINEAR LOADS

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This paper discusses the time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with linear and nonlinear loads. The fast Fourier transform (FFT) is used to analyze an antenna with a linear load. A numerical time-stepping, finite-difference equation method is used to analyze an antenna with a nonlinear load. The nonlinear effect is treated by the Newton-Raphson iteration technique. Effects of various linear and nonlinear loads are examined. Physical insight into the nonlinear loading of the antenna is also given in terms of detected time-domain sinusoidal electromagnetic (EM) waves.

Keywords: Fast Fourier transform; Newton-Raphson iteration method ; linear load; nonlinear load; time-domain measurements; time-stepping finite-difference technique; transient; traveling-wave antenna.

1. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that a conventional linear antenna, which supports an essentially standing-wave current distribution, is highly frequency sensitive because its antenna characteristics (e.g., current distribution, antenna admittance, radiation pattern, etc.) are strong functions of frequency. On the other hand, an essentially traveling-wave current distribution can be produced on a linear antenna by inserting a suitable loading resistor one-quarter wavelength from the end of the antenna, as indicated by Altshuler [1]. The correct value of loading resistance is not, however, easy to calculate since the antenna does not have a characteristic impedance analogous to TEM transmission line theory. Moreover, since the value and the location of the loading resistor are functions of frequency, this type of a linear antenna cannot be considered broadband.

Wu and King [2] demonstrated that a traveling-wave antenna can be realized by continuous resistive loading, where the internal impedance is a particular function of position along the antenna. Shen and Wu [3], Taylor [4], Shen [5], and Lally and Rouch [6] have modified and improved the original Wu-King theory and have done experimental work on a relatively long (more than 25 cm) traveling-wave antenna.

The author [7,8] applied the method-of-moments technique to numerically solve the wave equation of a traveling-wave linear antenna. The current distribution, antenna admittance, near-field and far-field radiation patterns, and radiation efficiency of the antenna were calculated and compared with results calculated from Wu-King's current distribution. More recently, transients in traveling-wave linear antennas analyzed by the author [9,10] have been compared with those in TEM horns and conical antennas.

In this paper, the time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with linear and nonlinear loads are discussed. The characteristics of the antenna with a linear load are described first in the frequency domain. Various combinations of resistors and capacitors are used as linear loads. Very short, incident electromagnetic (EM) impulses of 100-ps duration and 1.5-ns duration are used for the analysis. Time-domain characteristics are then obtained using the fast Fourier transform (FFT) technique.

Traditionally, the characteristics of a linear antenna with a nonlinear load have been analyzed in the frequency domain by considering spectral components of solutions at harmonic frequencies [11]. For example, Sarker and Weiner [12] have used the Volterra series analysis to obtain the scattering of a nonlinearly loaded antenna. Calculation of the transfer function of a nonlinearly loaded antenna, however, becomes very tedious, particularly when circuit models for such a combination are very complicated. For this reason, recent analyses of nonlinearly loaded antennas have been evaluated using a direct time-domain technique [13,14]. In this paper, the time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load are derived by solving the time-domain, nonlinear equations using a time-stepping, finite-difference equation technique. The nonlinear effect is treated by the Newton-Raphson iteration method. The transfer function and the dynamic range of a traveling-wave antenna with a nonlinear load are derived. Physical insight into the nonlinear effects on an antenna is gained by an examination of the detected time-domain, sinusoidal EM waveforms.

2. TRAVELING-WAVE LINEAR ANTENNA

In this paper, a traveling-wave linear antenna is realized by depositing a thin film of resistive material on a glass rod. The film thickness and, therefore, the resistance vary with position along the linear antenna. Although various types of resistive-loading profiles have been examined, the best are

related to the Wu-King theory. That is, if the internal real impedance (i.e., resistance) per unit length $Z^i(z)$ as a function of the axial coordinate z is given as

$$Z^i(z) = \frac{60}{h} \frac{|\Psi|}{|z|}, \quad (1)$$

then the current distribution $I_z(z)$ along the linear antenna is that of a traveling wave; i.e.,

$$I_z(z) = \frac{V_0}{60(1-j/kh)} \left[1 - \frac{|z|}{h}\right] e^{-jk|z|}. \quad (2)$$

The symbols have the following meanings: h is half the physical length of the dipole, k is the wave number, V_0 is the driving voltage, and Ψ is given by

$$\Psi = 2\left[\sinh^{-1}\frac{h}{a} - C(2ka, 2kh) - jS(2ka, 2kh)\right] + \frac{j}{kh}(1 - e^{-j2kh}) \quad (3)$$

where a is the radius of the dipole, and $C(x, y)$ and $S(x, y)$ are the generalized cosine and sine integrals, respectively.

In recent work by the author [7,8], current distributions on a traveling-wave antenna are calculated by solving the one-dimensional wave equation numerically using the method of moments [15]. Figure 1 shows a traveling-wave linear antenna and its resistive-loading profile. Current distributions calculated from the method of moments and Wu-King's approximation are shown in figure 2 along with some experimental results. Theoretical and experimental results indicate that the current distribution along an antenna is indeed that of a traveling wave.

Once the current distribution on the traveling-wave antenna is given, the effective length and the driving-point impedance of the antenna can be determined. These quantities are needed for analyzing the time-domain characteristics of the antenna with linear and nonlinear loads. The effective length, $h_e(f)$, of the antenna is given by the moment of its current distribution, divided by the driving-point current; i.e.,

$$h_e(f) = \frac{1}{I_z(0)} \int_{-h}^h I_z(z) dz. \quad (4)$$

Using the approximate current distribution given in eq (2), the effective length $h_e(f)$ and the driving-point impedance $Z_0(f)$ of the traveling-wave linear antenna are given by

$$h_e(f) = \frac{2}{k^2 h} (1 - jkh - e^{-jkh}) , \quad (5)$$

and

$$Z_0(f) = 60 \Psi \left(1 - \frac{j}{kh} \right) . \quad (6)$$

The effective length and the driving-point impedance of the antenna were also calculated using the current distribution obtained from the method of moments. The results are shown in figures 3 and 4.

3. TRAVELING-WAVE LINEAR ANTENNA WITH A LINEAR LOAD

The characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a linear load are analyzed first in the frequency domain, and then the time-domain characteristics are obtained using the FFT.

Using the effective length $h_e(f)$ of the antenna, the open circuit voltage $V_g(f)$ of its equivalent source is given by

$$V_g(f) = -h_e(f) E_{inc}(f) , \quad (7)$$

where $E_{inc}(f)$ is a normal incident electric field. The thevenin's equivalent circuit model for the antenna and a linear load is shown in figure 5. The receiving transfer function $S_r(f)$ of an antenna in the frequency domain is defined by

$$S_r(f) \equiv \frac{V_L(f)}{E_{inc}(f)} = \frac{-h_e(f) Z_L(f)}{Z_0(f) + Z_L(f)} , \quad (8)$$

where $V_L(f)$ is the induced voltage and $Z_L(f)$ is the load impedance of the antenna.

Figures 6a and 6b show the magnitude and phase of the transfer function of the traveling-wave antenna with various combinations of linear loads. The magnitude of the transfer function drops rapidly above 1 GHz due to a rapid decrease in effective length as indicated in figure 3. This rapid decrease in

effective length above 1 GHz prevents the antenna from resonating. Figure 6a shows that the magnitude of the transfer function of the antenna becomes constant with high impedance loads in the lower frequency range. Figure 6b indicates that the total phase dispersion of the antenna up to 1 GHz is still only 180° for various linear loads, although a large phase degradation takes place above 100 MHz. This nondispersive characteristic is very useful for fast, time-varying, transient EM impulse measurements.

The time-domain characteristics of the traveling-wave linear antenna with a linear load were obtained using the FFT. Two incident EM impulses, one having a duration of about 100 ps and the other having a duration of 1.5 ns, are used for time-domain analysis. The time-domain waveform and the amplitude spectra of an incident EM impulse with a 100-ps duration (50%) are shown in figure 7. The amplitude spectra are relatively flat up to 5 GHz. The time-domain EM impulse waveforms received by a traveling-wave antenna with various linear loads are shown in figures 8a and 8b. Figure 8a shows the EM impulse responses of an antenna with various resistive loads. Figure 8b shows those with various capacitive loads and capacitive-resistive, parallel combination loads. For capacitive loads of 0.1 pF and 1 pF, which represent typical capacitances of a sampler or of a high-frequency detection Schottky barrier diode, the resistive load predominantly determines the EM impulse waveforms, since the impedances corresponding to capacitances of 0.1 pF and 1 pF are very high. The lower the resistive load, the more predominant the down-shoot of the EM impulse waveforms becomes due to the low-frequency roll-off as shown in figure 6.

A low-frequency, incident EM Gaussian impulse with a duration of 1.5 ns was also used in the time-domain analysis. Its time-domain impulse waveform and amplitude spectra are shown in figure 9. The amplitude spectra are very flat to 200 MHz. The time-domain response of the traveling-wave antenna with various linear loads are shown in figures 10a, 10b, and 10c. Figures 10a, b, and c show the time-domain responses of the antenna with various resistive, capacitive, and capacitive-resistive, parallel combination loads, respectively. The figures indicate that, as the loading impedance of the antenna decreases, the received time-domain waveforms become time-differentiated and exhibit a predominant down-shoot. Thus, to reproduce the original incident EM impulse waveforms, a traveling-wave antenna should be terminated with a high, linear impedance load.

4. TRAVELING-WAVE LINEAR ANTENNA WITH A NONLINEAR LOAD

Thevenin's equivalent circuit models for the traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load are shown in figure 11. For both models in the figure, the traveling-wave linear antenna is modeled as an open circuit voltage source $|h_e| E_{inc}$, and its driving-point impedance is represented by R_a and C_a , in a series configuration. From the driving-point impedance given in figure 4, R_a is 250 Ω and C_a is 0.5 pF, for the purpose of the time-domain analysis of the models indicated in figure 11.

In Model I of figure 11, the characteristics of the traveling-wave linear antenna are determined by the nonlinear load, which is modeled with a nonlinear resistance R_n and a linear capacitance C_d in parallel configuration. In reality, a beam lead Schottky barrier diode, which is often used as a nonlinear load, is better represented by Model II shown in figure 11. Model II consists of a nonlinear resistance R_n and a nonlinear junction capacitance C_j , as well as a linear series resistance R_s , linear package capacitance C_p , and lead inductance L .

The nonlinear resistance R_n in Models I and II can be described by the diode I-V characteristics, modeled as

$$i = i_s (e^{\alpha V} - 1) . \quad (9)$$

The symbols have the following meanings: i is the current (amperes), V is the voltage (volts) across the diode junction, i_s is the saturation current (amperes) which is assumed to be 2×10^{-9} A, and $\alpha \approx q/nkT = 38 \text{ V}^{-1}$, where q is the electronic charge (1.6×10^{-19} coulomb), n is the diode ideality factor (~ 1.05), k is Boltzmann's constant (1.38×10^{-23} J/K), and T is the ambient temperature (~ 290 K).

The nonlinear capacitance C_j in Model II is represented by

$$C_j(V) = \frac{C_j(0)}{(1 - V/V_b)^{1/2}} , \quad (10)$$

where $C_j(0)$ is the zero bias function capacitance, typically 1 pF, and V_b is the built-in potential, typically 0.45eV for the beam lead Schottky barrier diode.

The package linear capacitance C_p in Model II is typically 0.1 pF. In Model I the nonlinear junction capacitance C_j and the linear package capacitance C_p are combined, where the total diode capacitance C_d is assumed to be linear and to be 0.34 pF. The linear series resistance R_s and the lead inductance L in Model II are assumed to be, respectively, 8 Ω and 0.1 nH. These elements are totally neglected in Model I.

4.1 THEORETICAL CONSIDERATION

The method used for analyzing time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave antenna with a nonlinear load is a time-stepping, finite-difference solution technique for obtaining the numerical solution to a time-domain model equation. The nonlinear effect caused by a nonlinear load is solved by the Newton-Raphson iteration method. The basic idea of the time-stepping, finite-difference equation technique is briefly discussed below. More detailed discussions on this subject are given by Calahan [16].

Linear and nonlinear elements are converted into a resistance-current equivalent network in the nodal equation method. For instance, in a regular R, C, and L circuit, we have

$$V_n = R i_n, \quad (11)$$

$$i_{n+1} = C \frac{V_{n+1} - V_n}{\tau}, \quad (12)$$

and

$$V_{n+1} = L \frac{i_{n+1} - i_n}{\tau}, \quad (13)$$

where τ is a sampling-time interval. Once the initial V_0 or i_0 is given, V_1 and i_1 , then V_2 and i_2 , etc. can be determined; such a method is, therefore, called a time-stepping, finite-difference equation method.

In order to deal with nonlinear equations that result from nonlinear elements such as diodes, the Newton-Raphson iteration is used. The basic technique is discussed below. Given a nonlinear equation $f(i, V)$, the solution of $f(i, V) = 0$ yields the solution of the nonlinear equation. First, $f(i, V)$

is expanded about an initial solution $\begin{bmatrix} i^0 \\ V^0 \end{bmatrix}$; that is,

$$f(i, V) = f(i^0, V^0) + J[f(i, V)] \begin{bmatrix} \Delta i^0 \\ \Delta V^0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

where J is the Jacobian of f and has the form

$$J = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial i_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial V_{n+m}} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial f_{n+m}}{\partial i_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial f_{n+m}}{\partial V_{n+m}} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (15)$$

Now, $f(i, V) = 0$ determines $\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i^0 \\ \Delta V^0 \end{bmatrix}$ as

$$J[f(i^0, V^0)] \begin{bmatrix} \Delta i^0 \\ \Delta V^0 \end{bmatrix} = -f(i^0, V^0). \quad (16)$$

The solution $\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i^0 \\ \Delta V^0 \end{bmatrix}$ updates the initial value of $\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i^0 \\ \Delta V^0 \end{bmatrix}$, via

$$\begin{bmatrix} i^{n+1} \\ V^{n+1} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} i^n \\ V^n \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} \Delta i^n \\ \Delta V^n \end{bmatrix}.$$

The operation is repeated for $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$, until the change $\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i \\ \Delta V \end{bmatrix}$ is significantly small.

4.2 NUMERICAL RESULTS

An incident, EM sinusoidal wave was used to examine the time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load. In the analysis, a single time-domain, sinusoidal EM wave was divided into 16 discrete digitized points (17 points including both ends). To arrive at the detected time-averaging of the sinusoidal wave excitation, 400 sinusoidal waves, which correspond to 6400 discrete points (16 points per cycle), were applied successively to a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load to compute 6400 discrete induced voltages at the antenna terminal. These 6400 discrete voltages were then numerically averaged to arrive at the detected time-average of the sinusoidal EM wave excitation.

Figure 12 shows the detected 1st and 400th sinusoidal waves using Models I and II. Because of the nonlinear element, the detected sinusoidal wave is clearly skewed, and there is more negative than positive charge accumulation. Figure 13 shows the time-averaged, detected dc induced voltage at the antenna terminals as a function of normal incident sinusoidal EM field. The experiments were performed using the traveling-wave linear antenna with a beam lead Schottky barrier diode as a nonlinear load, and the results are shown in this figure. From the theoretical and experimental results given in the figure, the detected dc voltage is shown to be precisely equal to the square of an incident EM field below a detected dc voltage of about 0.1 volt (square-law detection). Above a detected dc voltage of about 1 volt, the detected dc voltage is precisely proportional to an incident EM field (linear detection).

Figure 14 shows the transfer function of the traveling-wave antenna with a nonlinear load as a function of frequency. The transfer function of an antenna is defined in eq (8), with E_{inc} of 1 V/m. The theory and experimental results are in general agreement. The discrepancy between the theoretical and experimental results below 100 KHz is mainly due to the effect of the resistive leads used as a dc pick-up in the experiments. The very sharp cut-off indicated below 100 KHz and above 1 GHz can be easily explained as follows. Figure 15 shows the detected time-domain EM sinusoidal waves at various frequencies. This figure shows clearly that the detected sinusoidal waves are more skewed and distorted at 10 MHz than those at 10 kHz and at 10 GHz. In turn, this skewed and distorted sinusoidal voltage causes more negative charge accumulation, leading to a very high detection efficiency. On the other hand, the smaller

skewness and distortion at 10 kHz and 10 GHz, cancel positive and negative charge, and the net charge accumulation is almost zero, leading to a very low-detection efficiency.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This paper discussed the time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with linear and nonlinear loads. The theoretical technique used for analyzing the time-domain characteristics of an antenna with a linear load is the FFT technique. Very fast impulses with durations of 100 ps and 1.5 ns were used in the analysis. Various combinations of resistances and capacitances were used as linear loads. In general, the traveling-wave linear antenna with a high impedance load preserves incident time-domain, transient EM waveforms. On the other hand, an antenna with a low impedance load causes time differentiation in the time-domain waveform due to a low-frequency roll-off in its transfer function.

The theoretical technique used for analyzing a traveling-wave antenna with a nonlinear load is the time-stepping, finite-difference equation method with the Newton-Raphson technique. Differential equations are solved using the time-stepping, finite-difference equation method, whereas the nonlinear effect is treated by the Newton-Raphson iteration technique. The dynamic range and the transfer function of the traveling-wave antenna with a beam lead Schottky barrier diode used as a nonlinear load were evaluated. The physical insight into the nonlinear response of the antenna can be gained by a qualitative discussion of the effects of skewness and distortion of detected time-domain EM waves.

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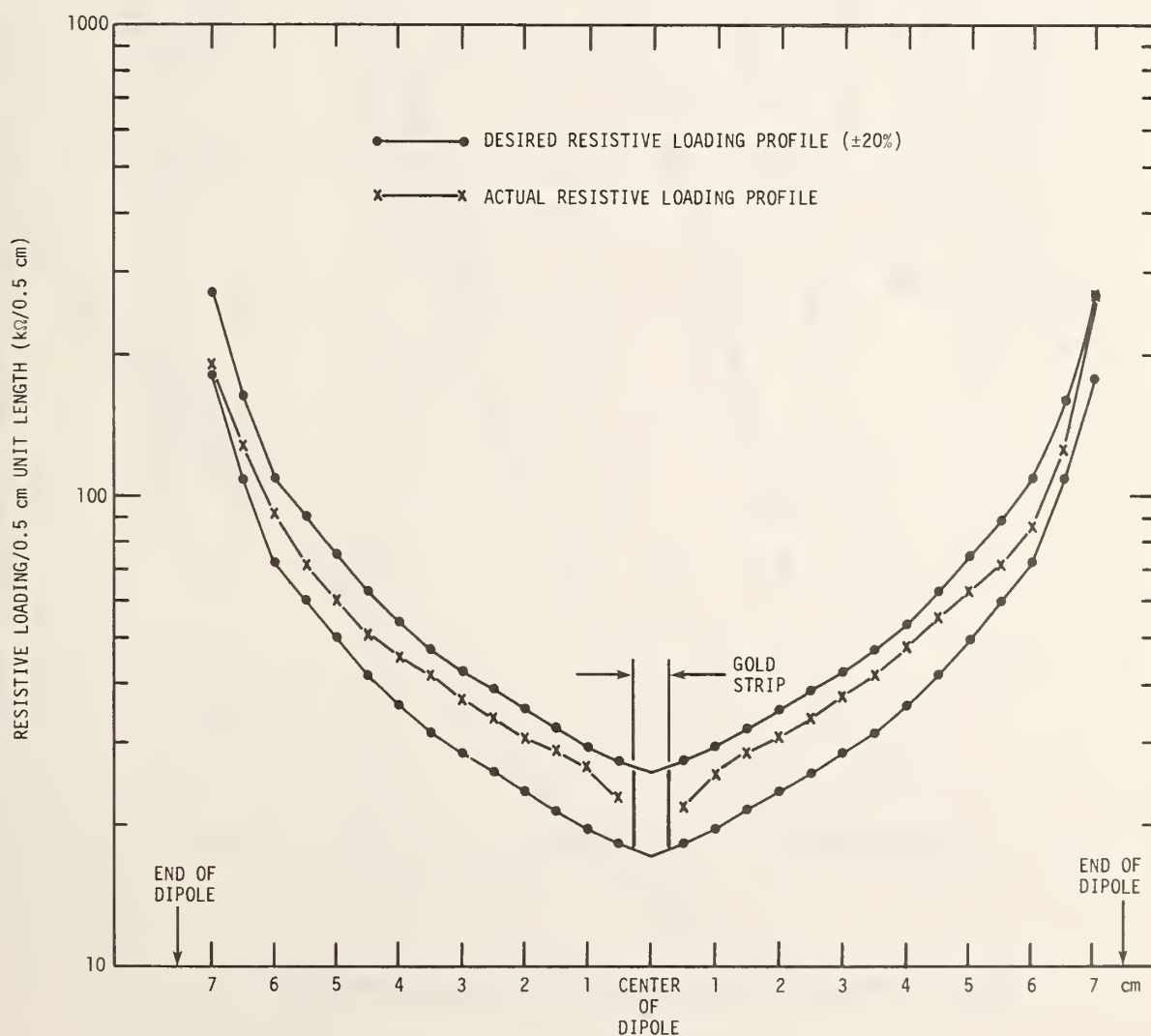
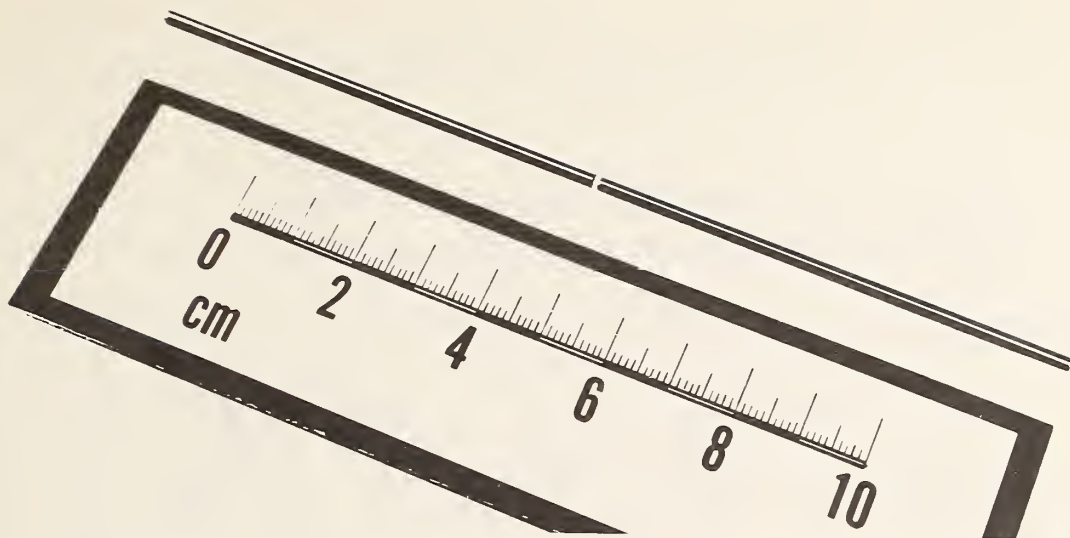


Fig. 1. A traveling-wave linear antenna and its resistive-loading profile.

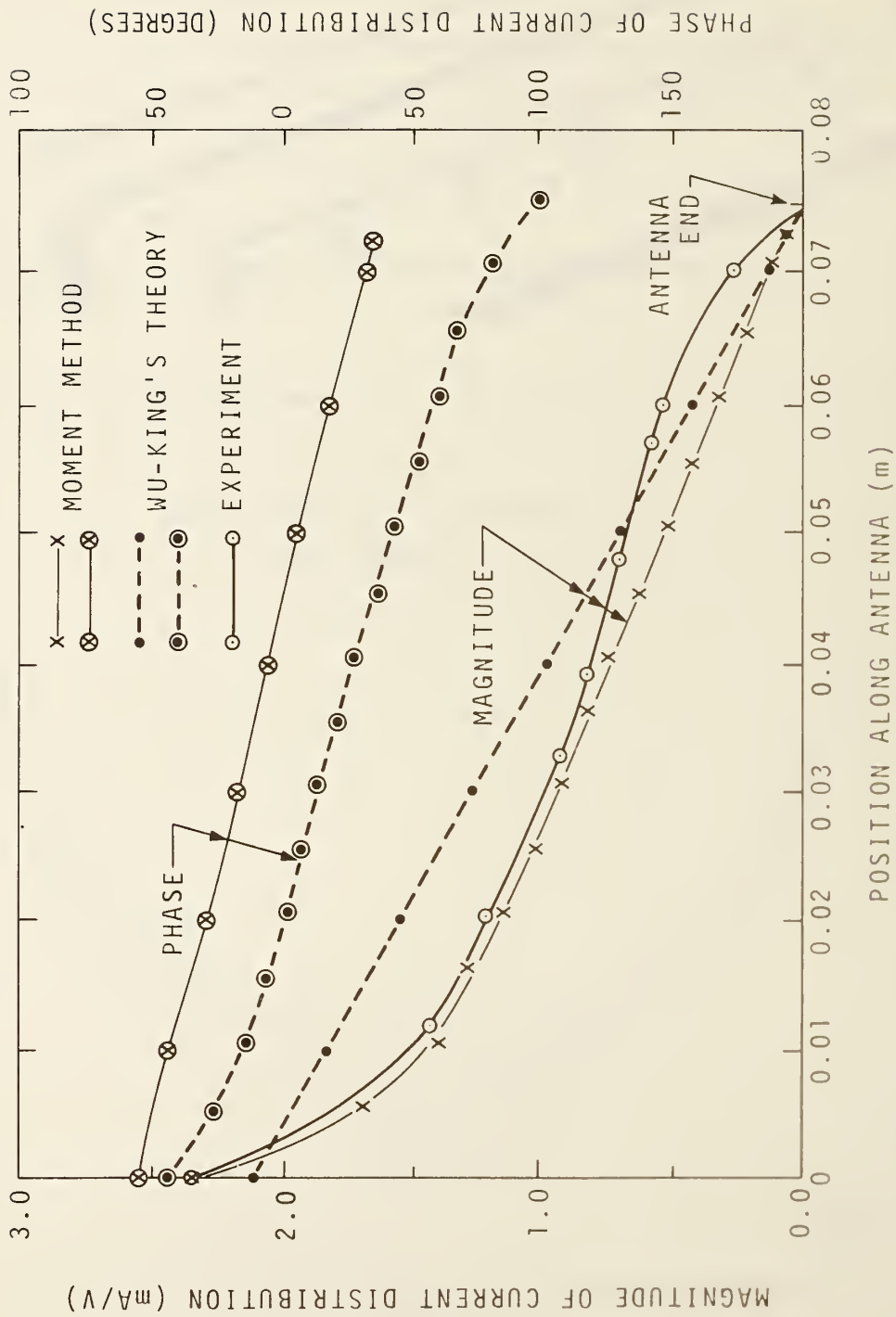


Fig. 2. Current distribution of a traveling-wave linear antenna at 1 GHz.

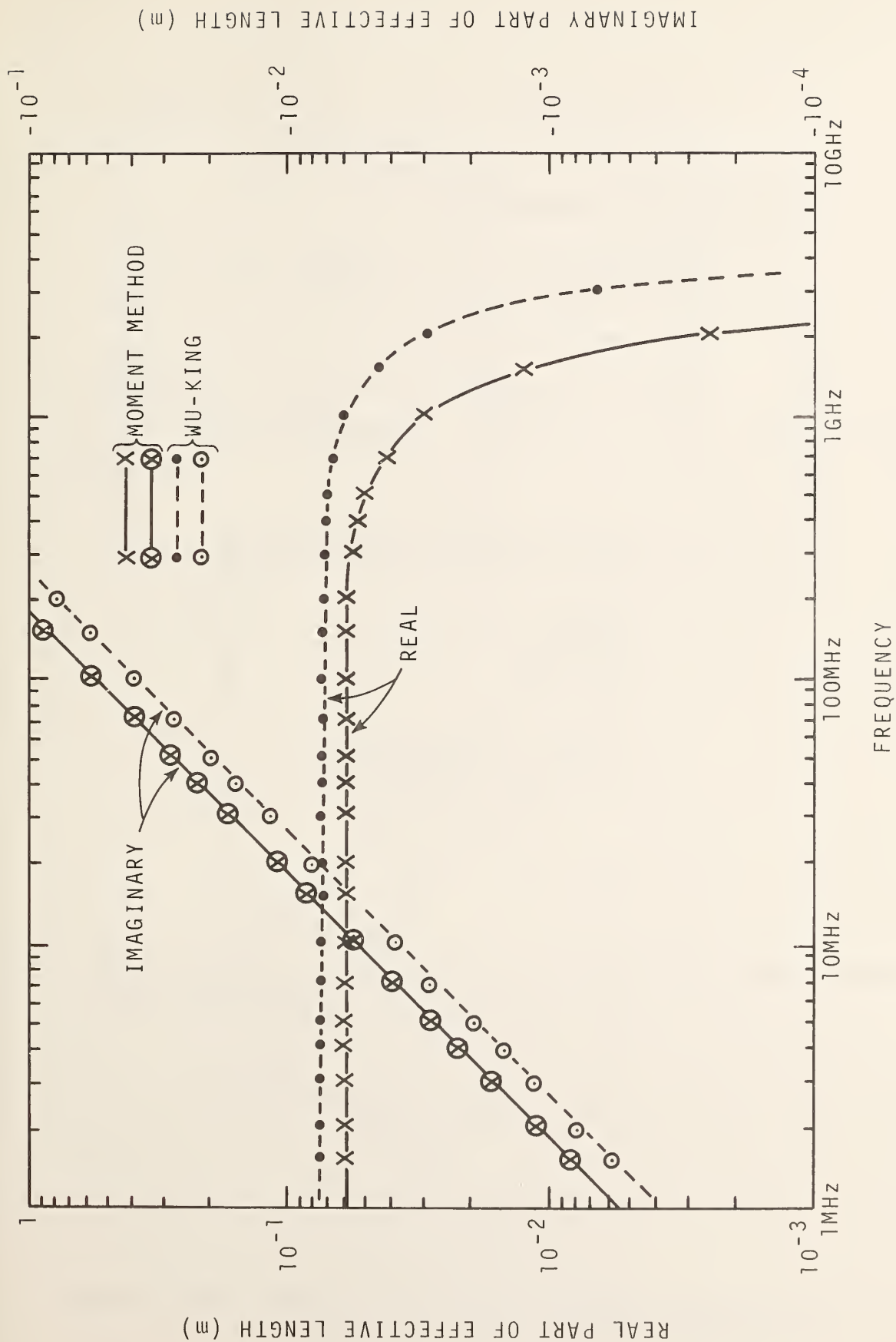


Fig. 3. Effective length of a traveling-wave linear antenna.

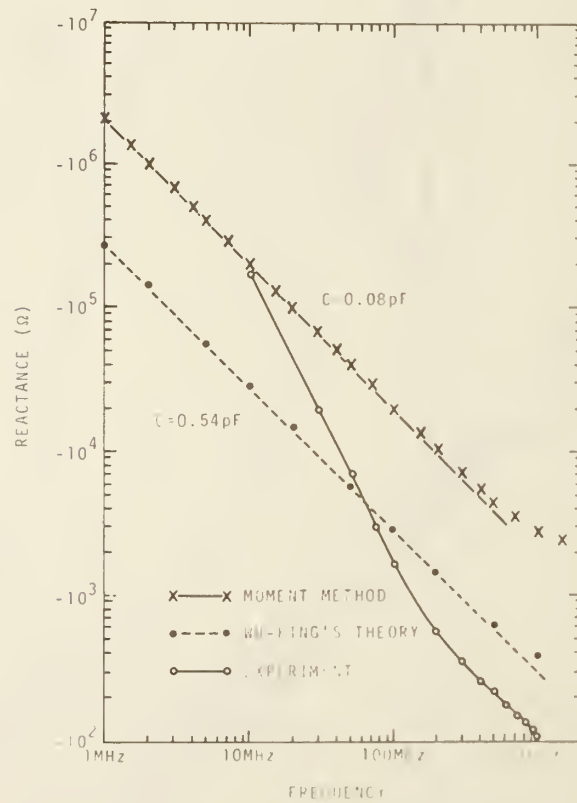
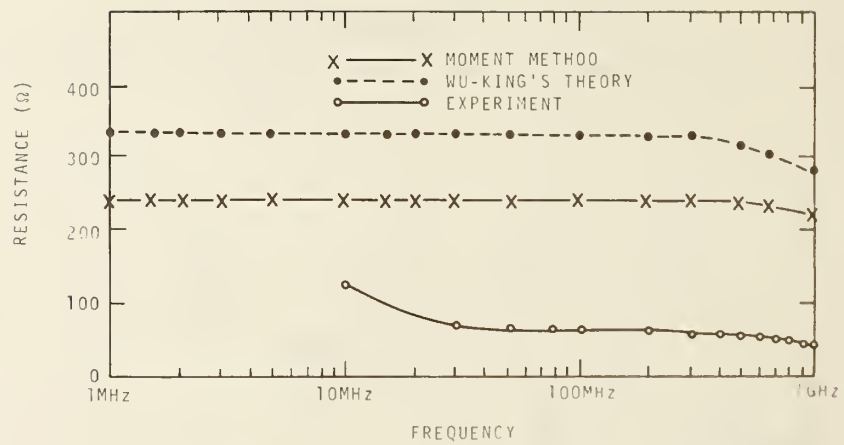
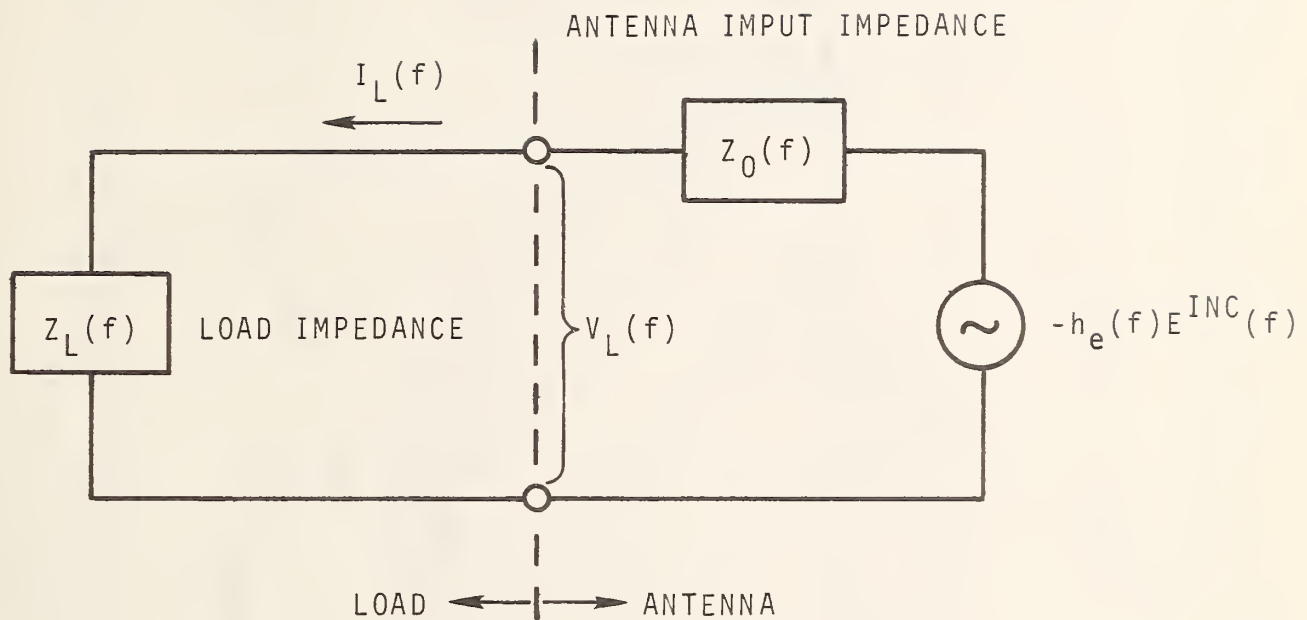


Fig. 4. Driving-point impedance of the traveling-wave linear antenna.

RECEPTION



$$V_L(f) = \frac{-h_e(f)E^{INC}(f) Z_L(f)}{Z_0(f) + Z_L(f)}$$

Fig. 5. Thevenin's equivalent circuit for a traveling-wave linear antenna with a linear load.

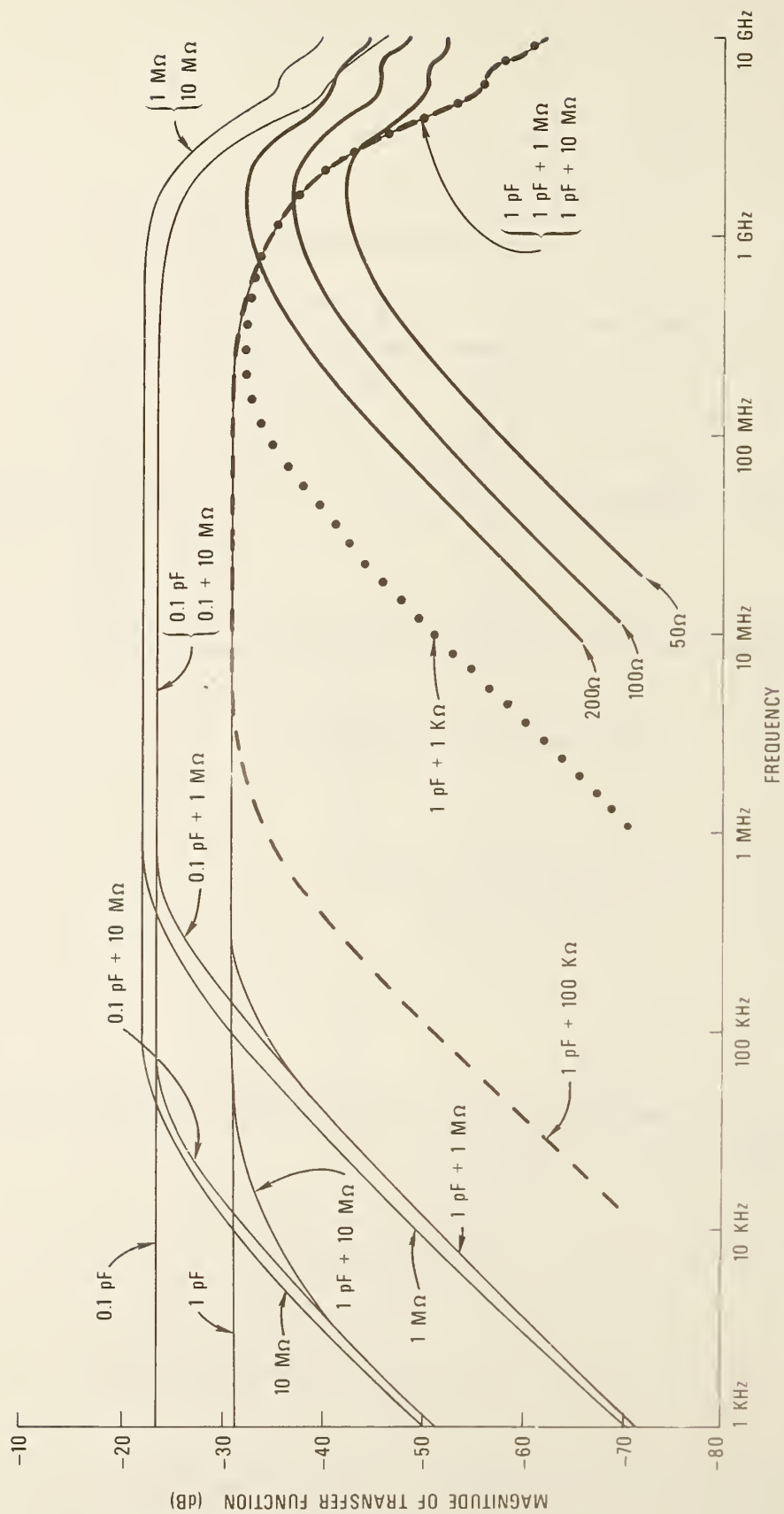


Fig. 6. a) The magnitude of the transfer function for a traveling-wave, linear antenna with a linear load.

Fig. 6 b) The phase of the transfer function for a travelling-wave linear antenna with a linear load.

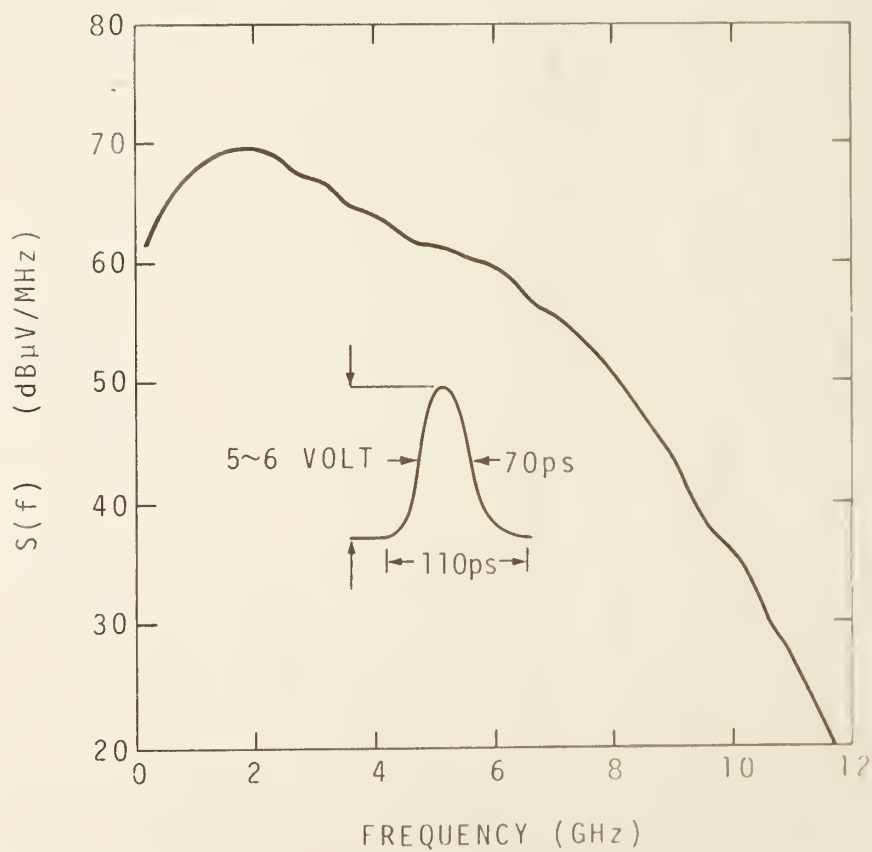
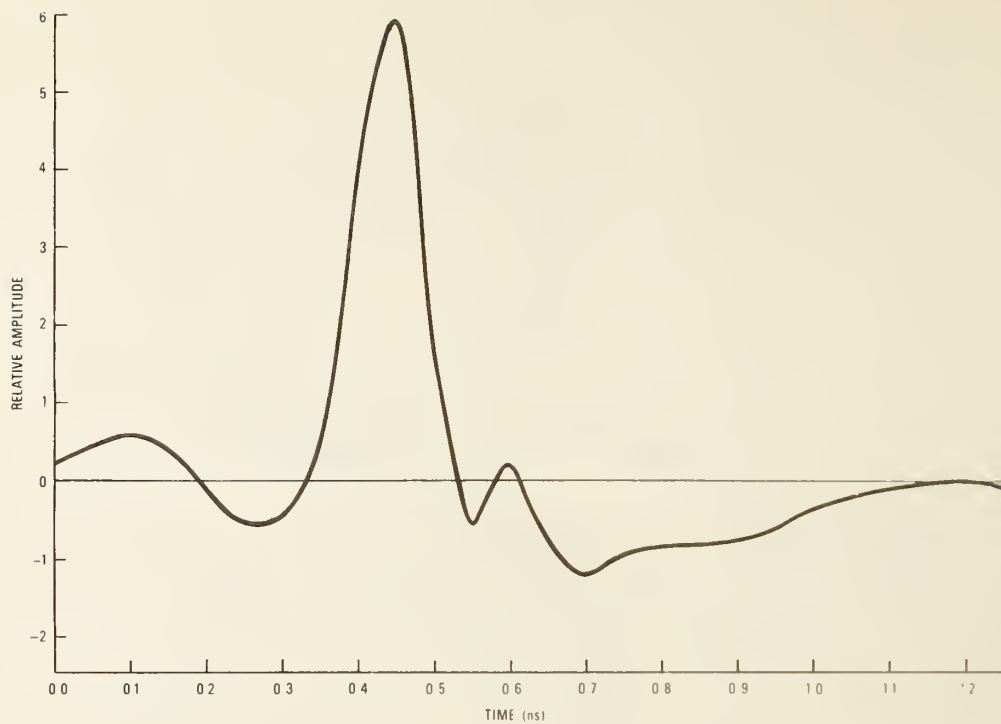


Fig. 7. Time-domain waveform and amplitude spectra of 100-ps EM impulse.

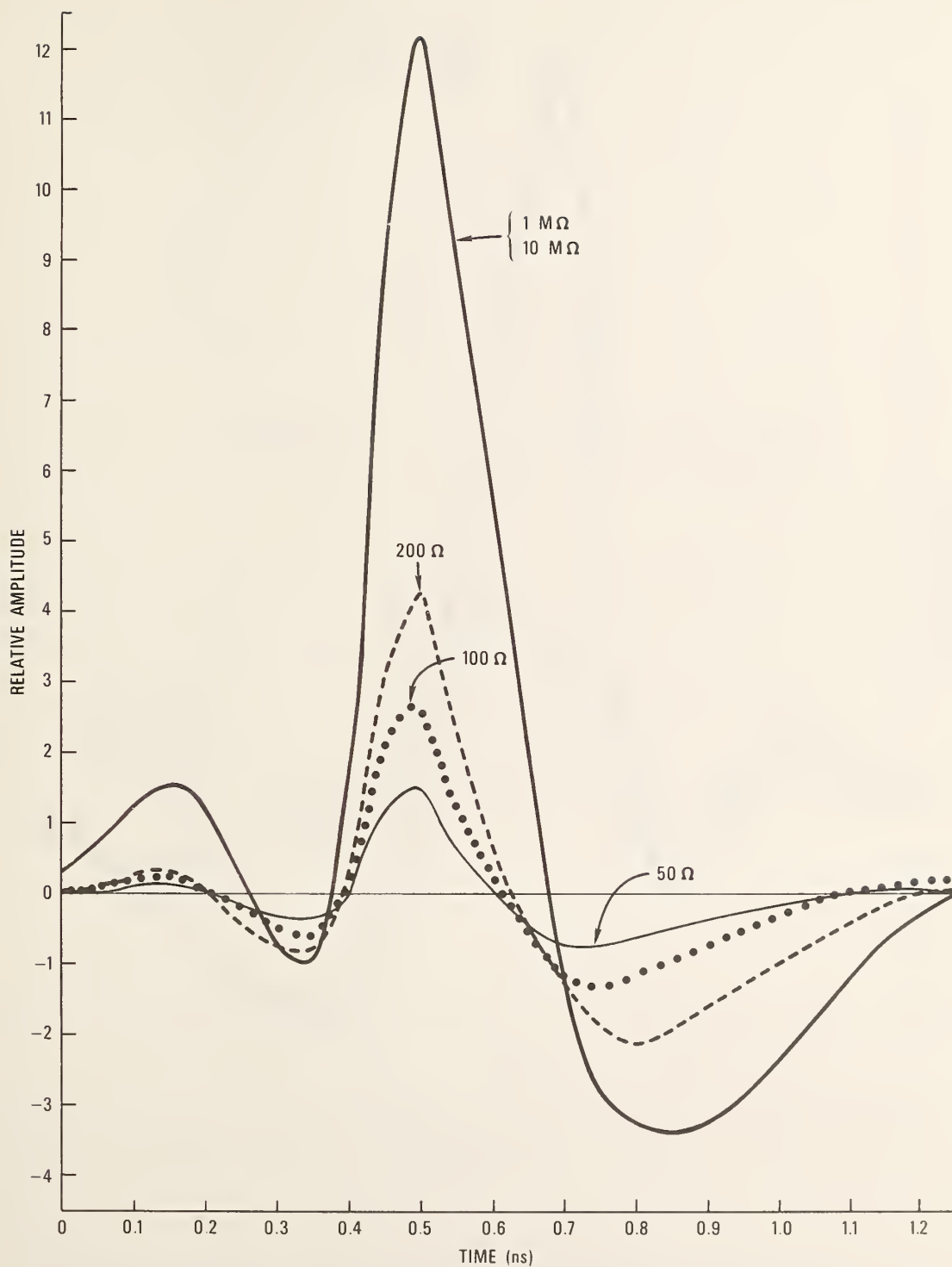


Fig. 8. a) Transient responses of a traveling-wave linear antenna with 100-ps EM impulse with various resistance loads.

77x 4019

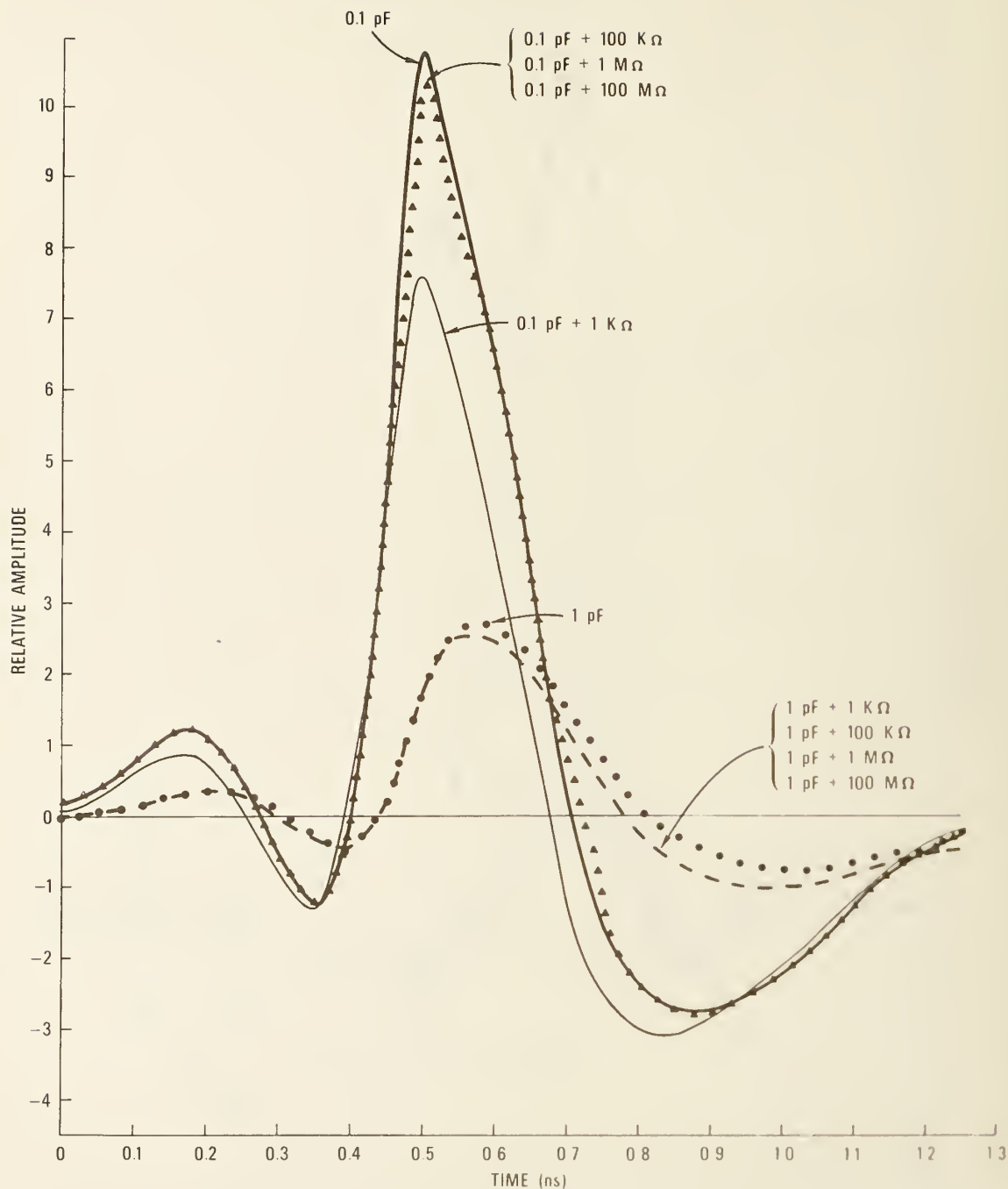


Fig. 8 b) Transient responses of a traveling-wave linear antenna with 100-ps EM impulse with various capacitance loads and capacitance-resistance, parallel combination loads.

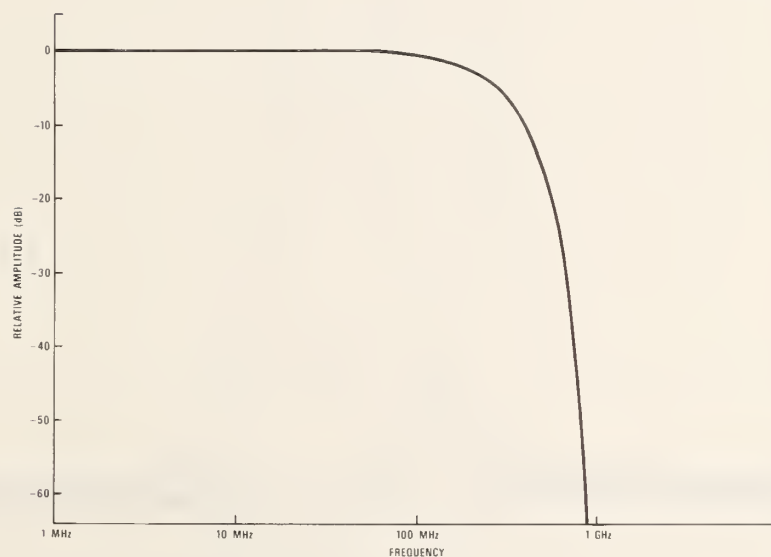
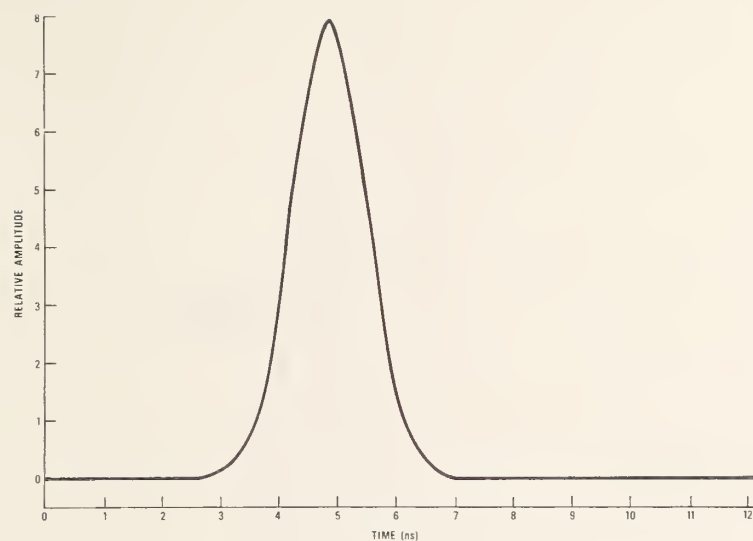


Fig. 9. Time-domain waveform and amplitude spectra of a 1.5-ns Gaussian EM impulse.

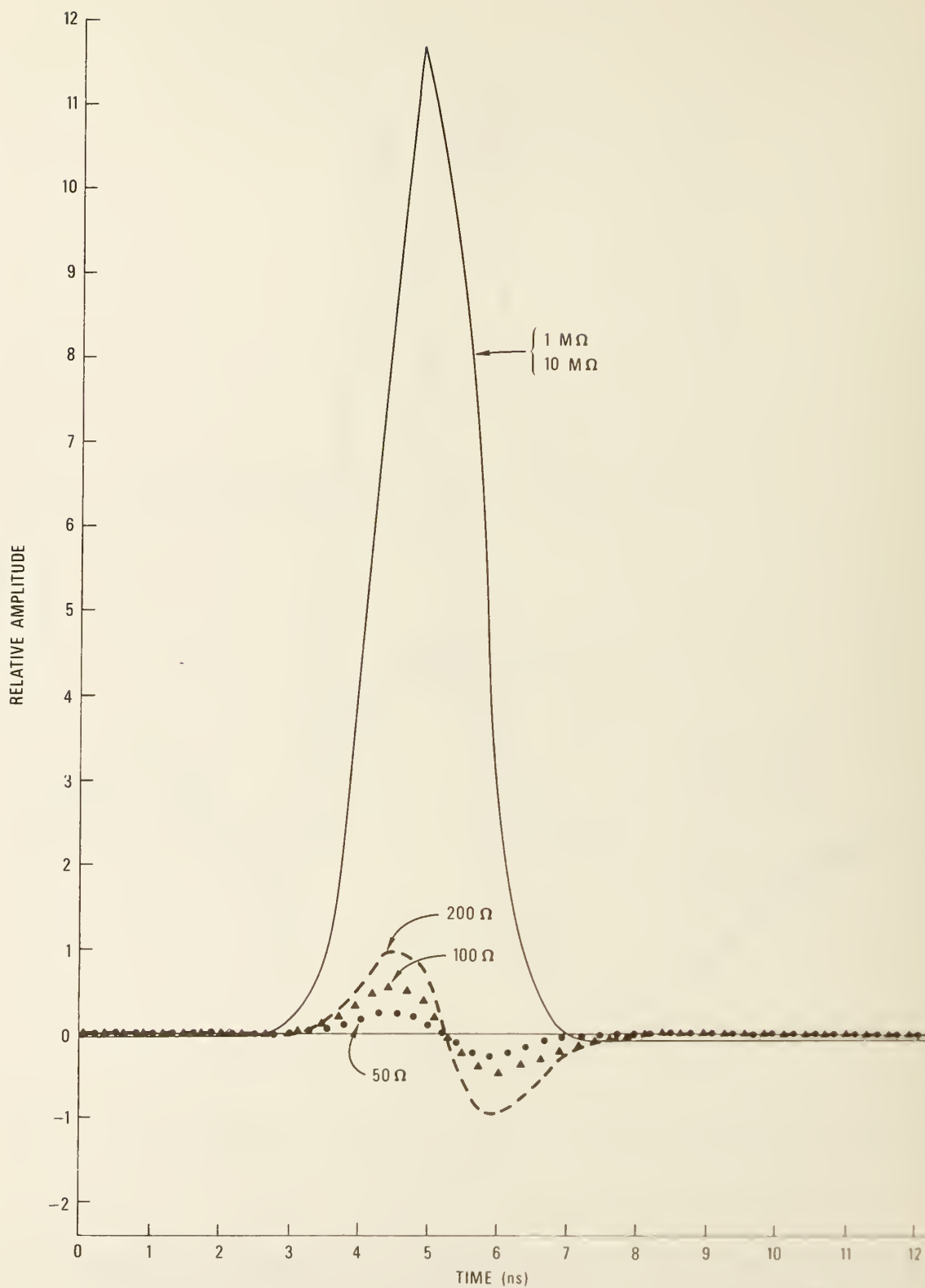


Fig. 10. a) Transient responses of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a 1.5-ns Gaussian EM impulse for various resistance loads.

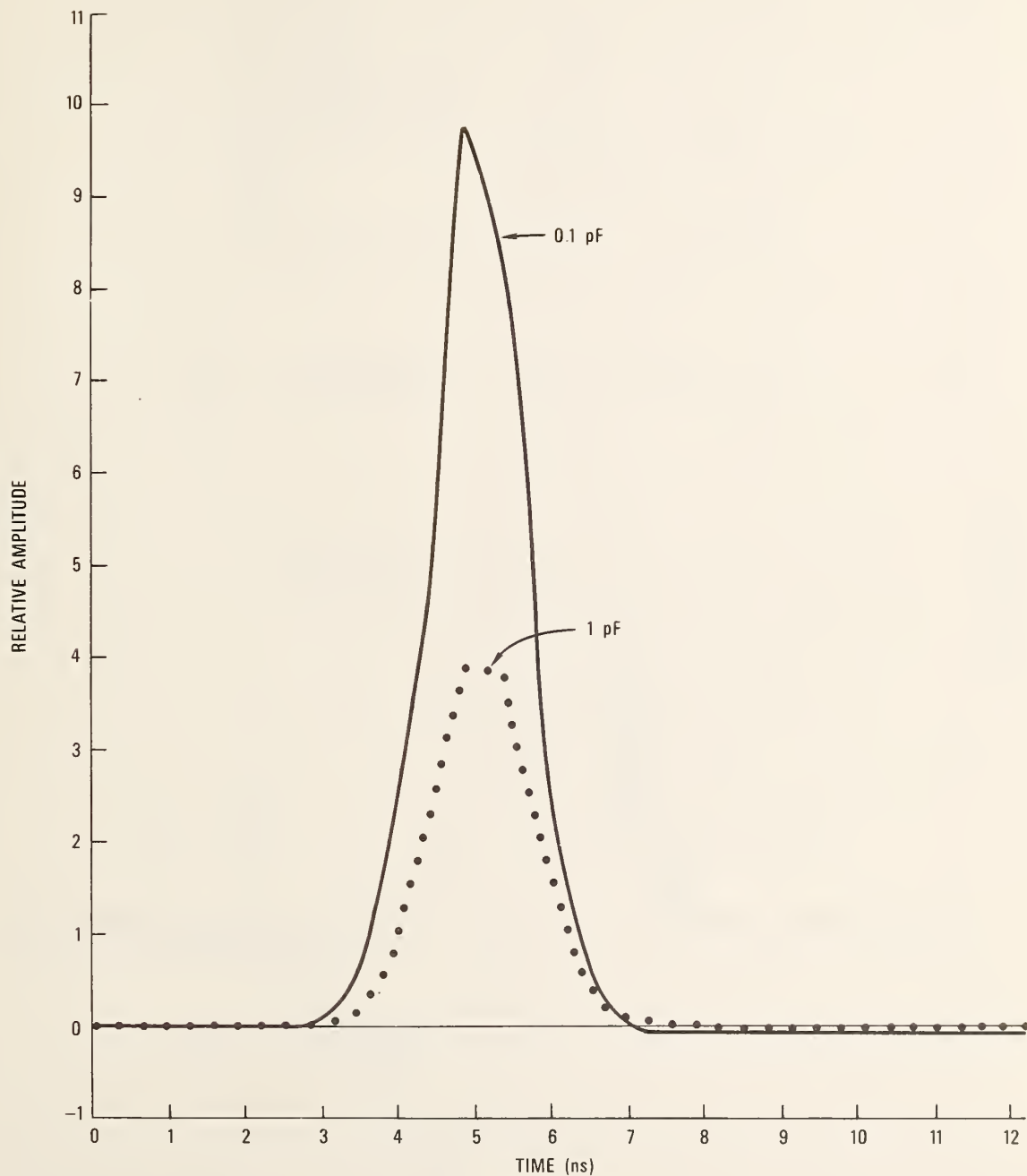


Fig. 10. b) Transient responses of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a 1.5-ns Gaussian EM impulse for various capacitance loads.

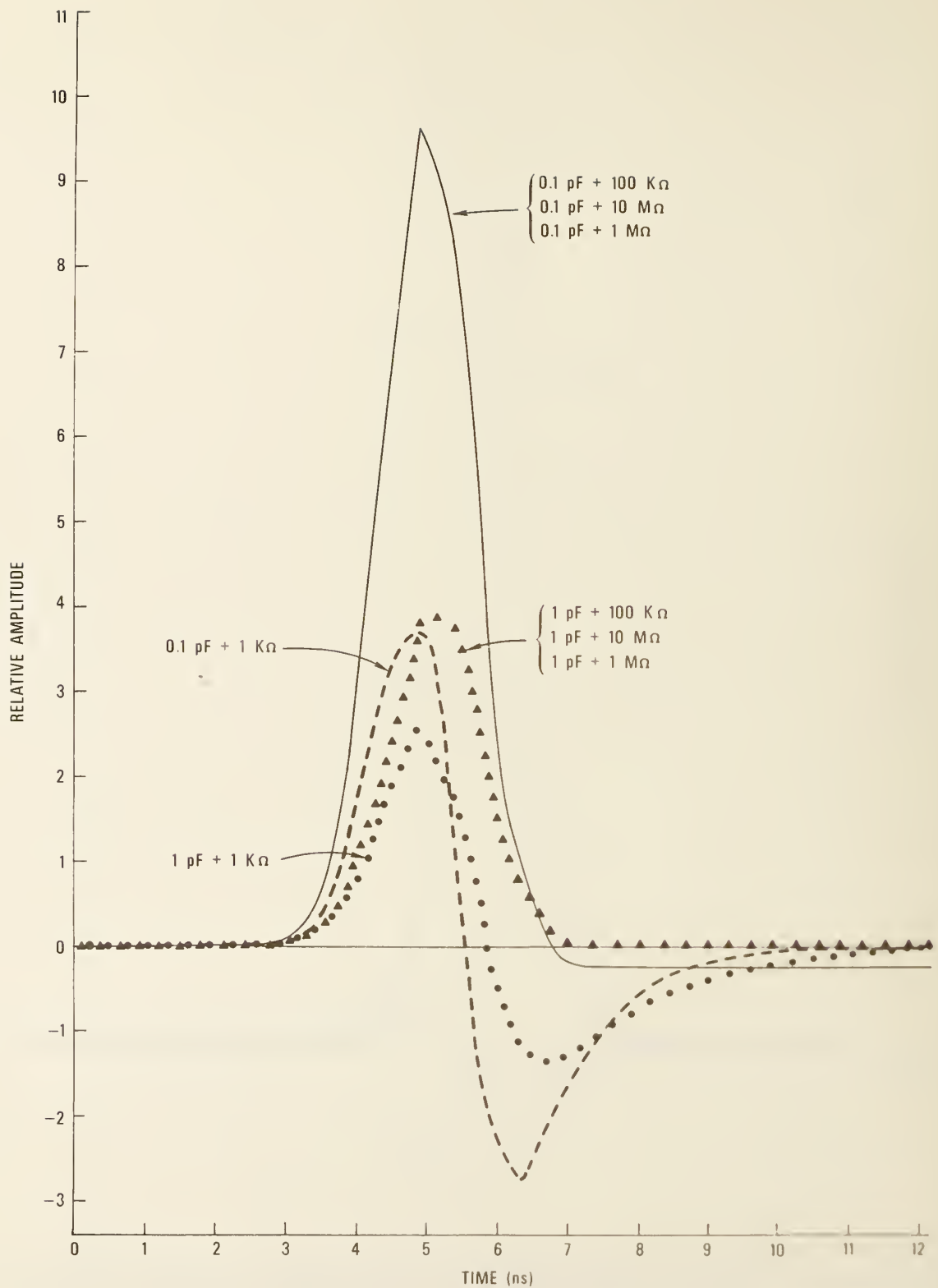


Fig. 10. c) Transient responses of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a 1.5-ns Gaussian EM impulse for various capacitance-resistance, parallel combination loads.

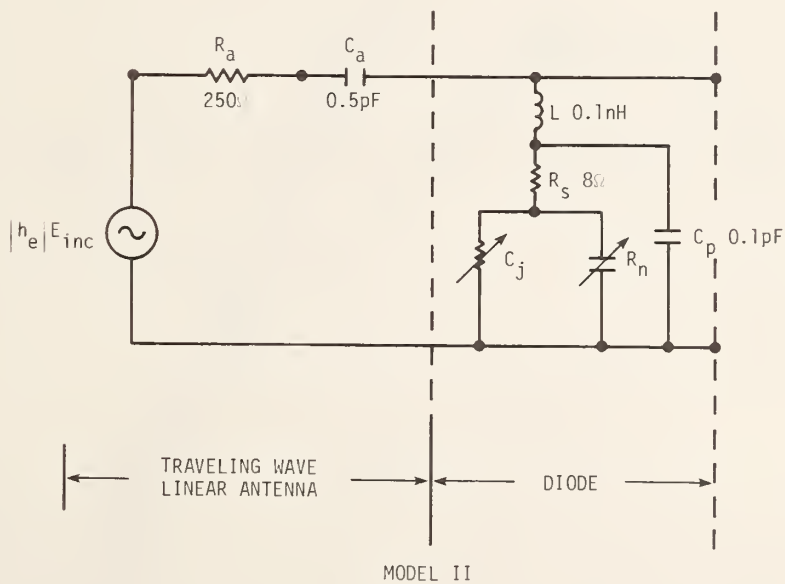
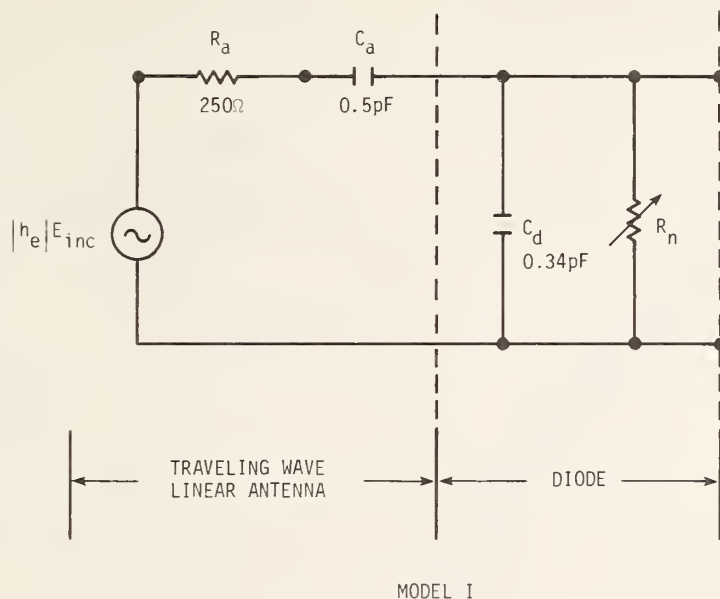


Fig. 11. Thevenin's equivalent circuit for a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load.

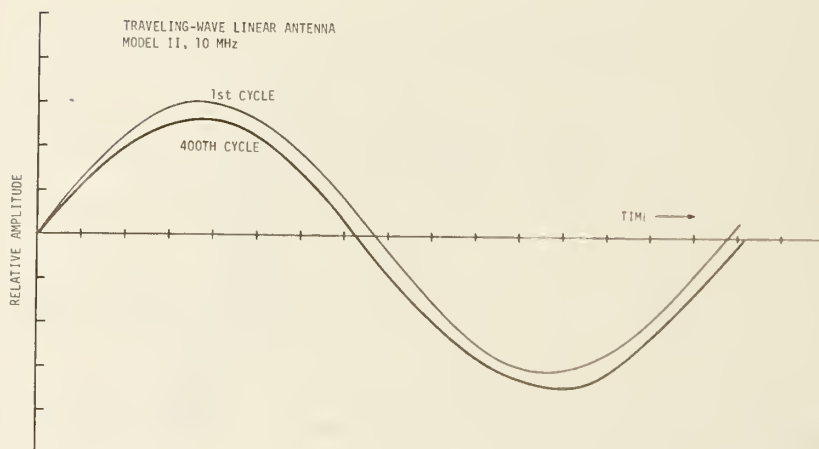
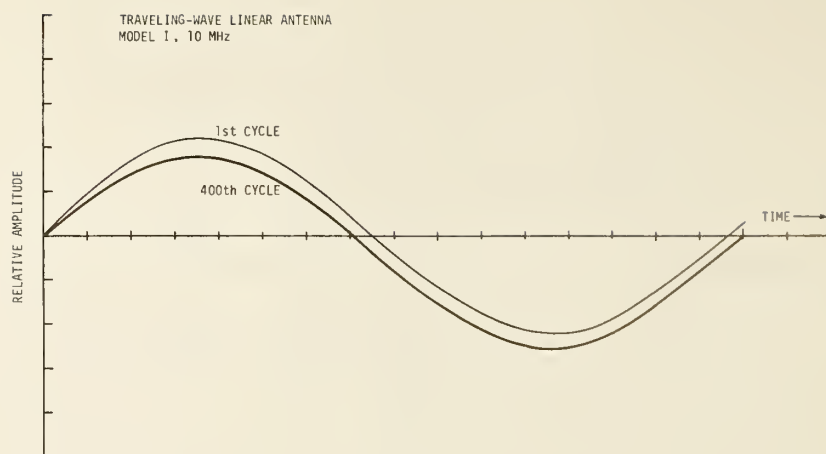


Fig. 12. Detected EM sinusoidal waves by a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load.

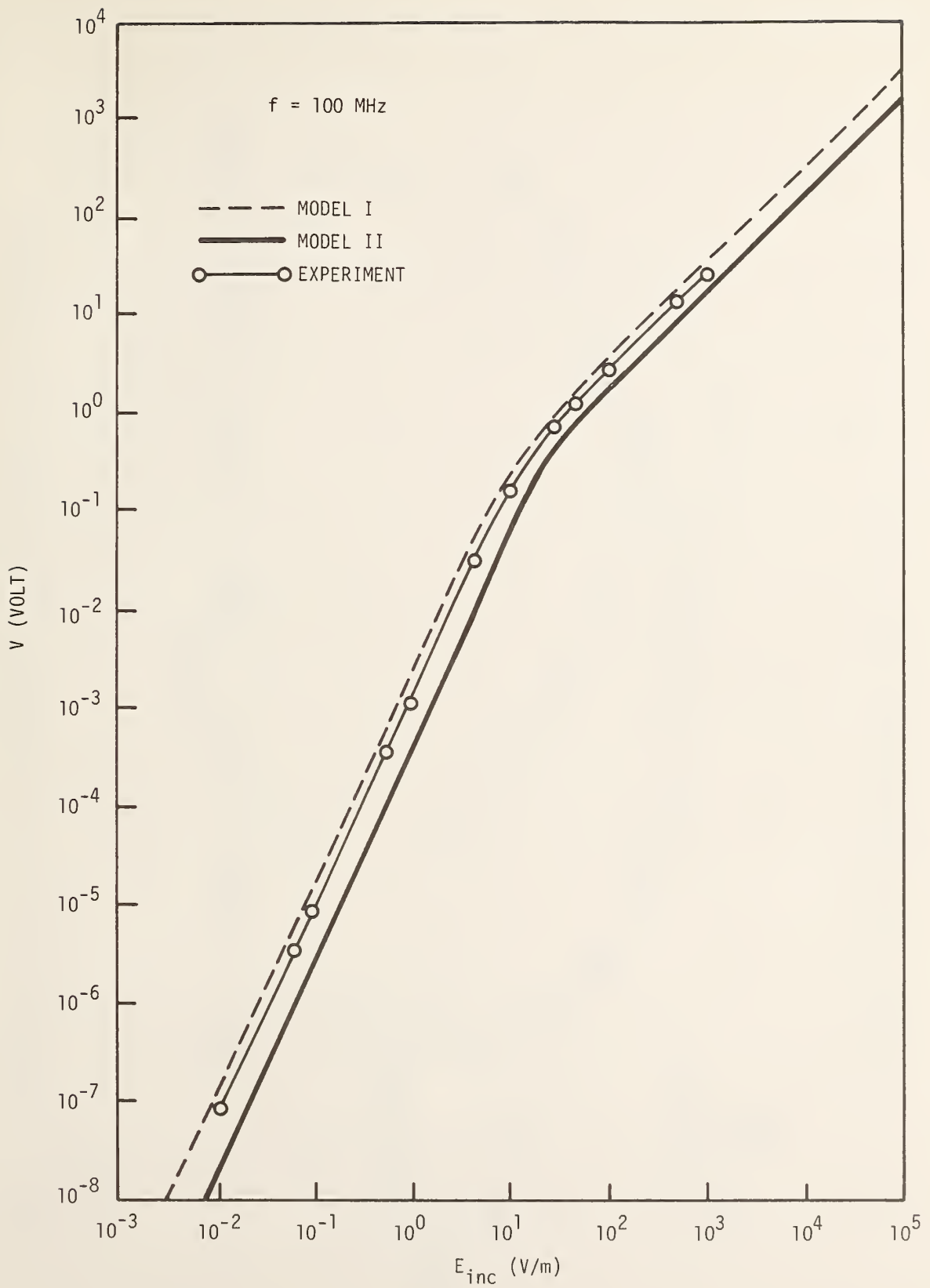


Fig. 13. Dynamic range of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load.

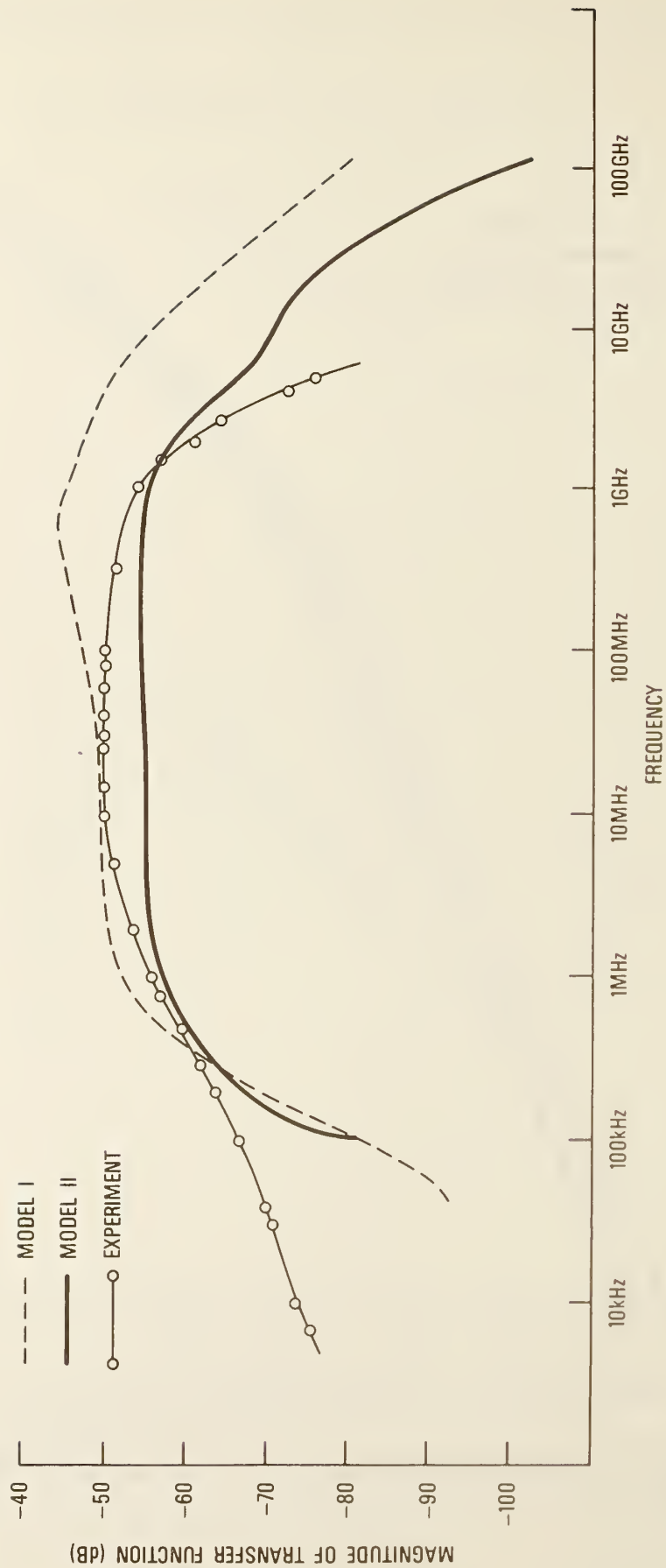


Fig. 14. Transfer function of a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load.

TRAVELING-WAVE LINEAR ANTENNA MODEL II

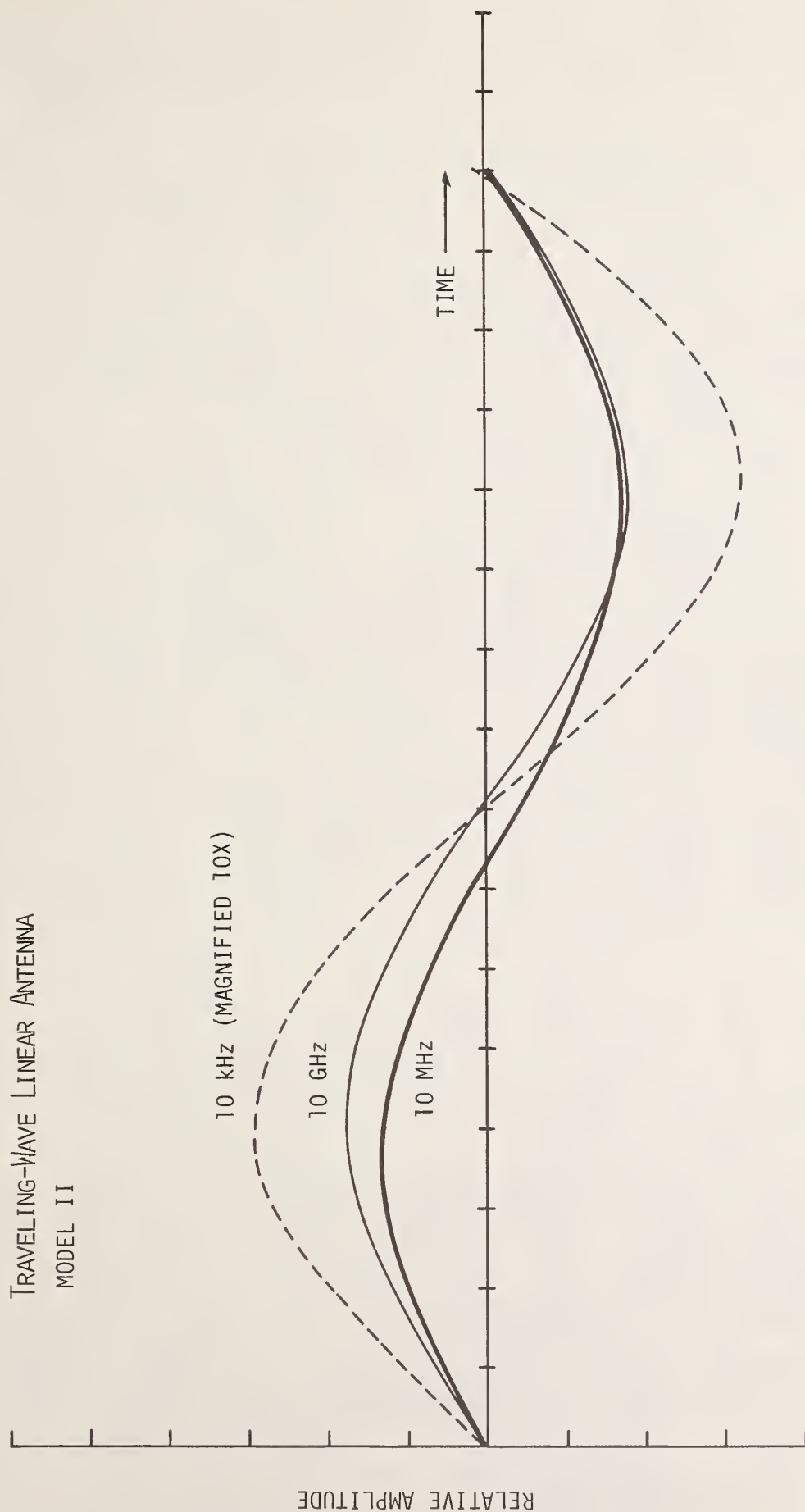


Fig. 15. Detected EM sinusoidal waves by a traveling-wave linear antenna with a nonlinear load at various frequencies.

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16. ABSTRACT (A 200-word or less factual summary of most significant information. If document includes a significant bibliography or literature survey, mention it here.) <p>This paper discusses the time-domain characteristics of a traveling-wave linear antenna with linear and nonlinear loads. The fast Fourier transform (FFT) is used to analyze an antenna with a linear load. A numerical time-stepping, finite-difference equation method is used to analyze an antenna with a nonlinear load. The nonlinear effect is treated by the Newton-Raphson iteration technique. Effects of various linear and nonlinear loads are examined. Physical insight into the nonlinear loading of the antenna is also given in terms of detected time-domain sinusoidal electromagnetic (EM) waves.</p>				
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